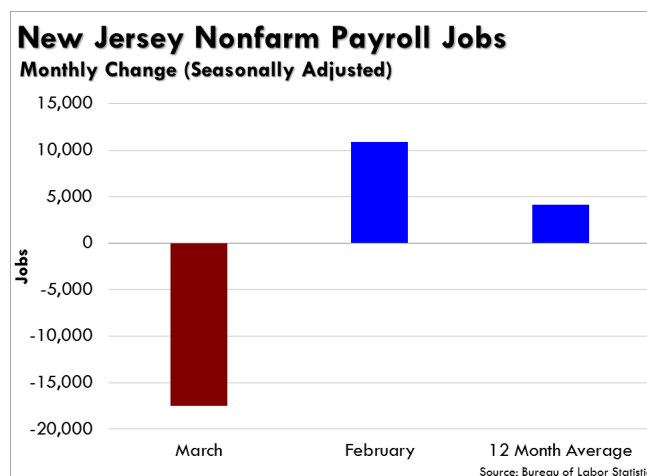
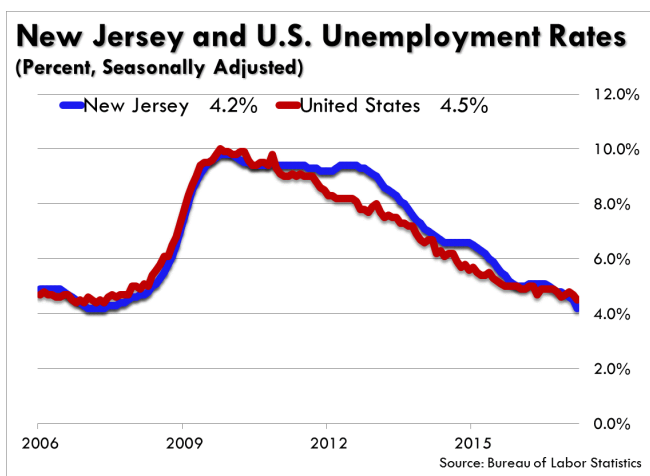


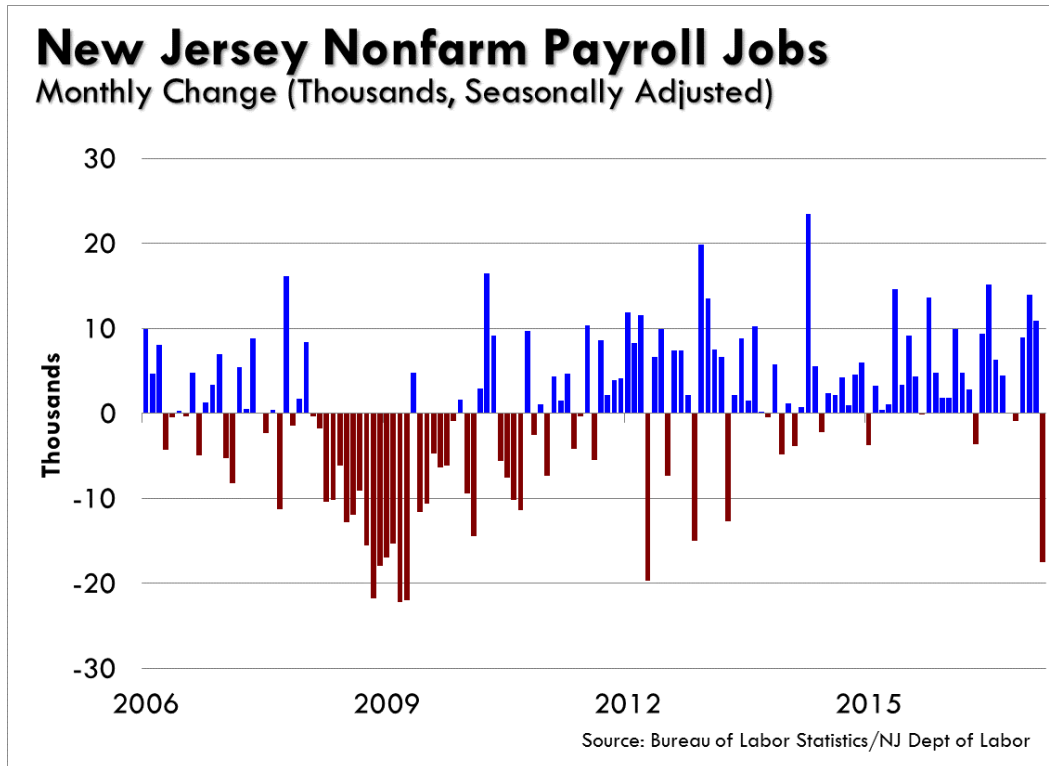


April 23, 2017

## Summary

- **New Jersey lost 17,500 jobs and the unemployment rate declined by 0.3 percentage point to 4.2 percent in March** according to Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data.
- **Over the past twelve months, New Jersey added 49,700 jobs** and the unemployment rate fell by 0.9 percentage point from 5.1 percent.
- **In March, New Jersey's private sector lost 19,100 jobs** and over the past twelve months it created 54,100 jobs.
- The number of **unemployed New Jerseyans fell by 11,126 in March**, and over the past year 43,733 New Jerseyans found jobs.
- New Jersey's **labor force participation rate remains unchanged** from 63.6 percent in March. Since last year, the labor force participation rate fell 0.2 percentage point.
- The national unemployment rate **declined by 0.2 percentage point to 4.5 percent in March**. State employment and unemployment data for April is scheduled for release on May 19, 2017. The national employment situation report for April will be released on Friday, May 5, 2017.





### **New Jersey Payroll Employment**

New Jersey lost 17,500 jobs, or 0.42 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during March. In the prior month, New Jersey added 10,900 jobs. Over the past twelve months, nonfarm payrolls in New Jersey increased by 49,700, or 1.22 percent. New Jersey nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 8 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 98,000 jobs in March, or 0.07 percent. Over the 12-month period ending March 2017, nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,185,000 jobs, or 1.52 percent. New Jersey ranks 40th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

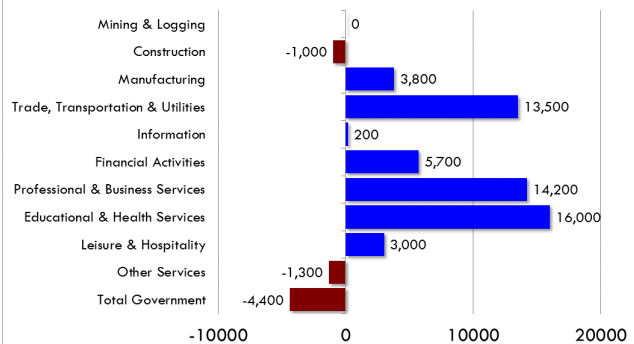
During March, New Jersey's private-sector lost 19,100 jobs, or 0.54 percent. The private-sector in New Jersey added 11,200 jobs in the prior month. Over the past twelve months, private-sector payrolls in New Jersey increased by 54,100, or 1.57 percent. New Jersey private-sector payroll employment has increased in 9 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private-sector payroll jobs increased by 89,000 jobs in March, or 0.07 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,033,000 jobs in the private-sector, an increase of 1.67 percent. New Jersey ranks 34th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private-sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during March were Total Government (+1,600), Manufacturing (+300), and Information (+300). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Leisure & Hospitality (-6,300) and Professional & Business Services (-5,000).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Educational & Health Services (+16,000) and Professional & Business Services (+14,200). The poorest performing sectors during the last twelve months were Total Government (-4,400) and Other Services (-1,300).

### Change in New Jersey Payroll Employment by Sector over Past 12 Months



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics/NJ Dept of Labor, seasonally adjusted.

## New Jersey Labor Force Statistics

### *Labor Force Participation*

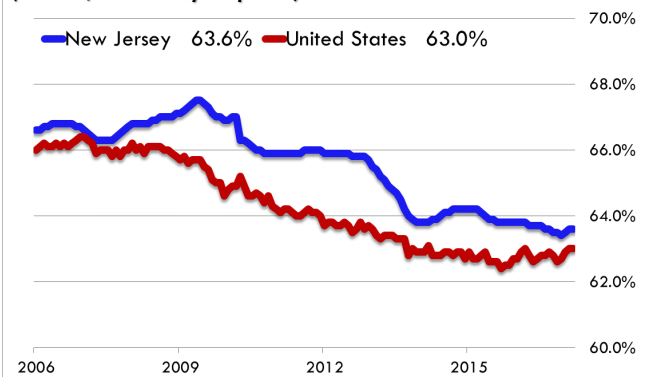
The labor force participation rate in New Jersey was unchanged at 63.6 percent in March. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 26 have a higher labor force participation rate than New Jersey. The labor force participation rate in New Jersey is unchanged from a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in New Jersey was 67.5 percent in June 2009. The series high for the labor force participation rate in New Jersey occurred in March 1997 when the labor force participation rate hit 67.9 percent. The 10-year low for the labor force participation rate was 63.4 percent in December 2016. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in January 1976 when the labor force participation rate hit 60.9 percent. The national labor force participation rate was unchanged at 63.0 percent, but remains near its 38-year low of 62.4 percent.

### *Employment-to-Population Ratio*

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the New Jersey civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, rose to 60.9 percent in March from 60.8 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 26 have higher employment-to-

### New Jersey and U.S. Labor Force (Percent, Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

population ratios than New Jersey. The employment-to-population ratio in New Jersey is 0.4 percentage point higher than a year earlier.

The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in New Jersey was 63.7 percent in March 2008. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in New Jersey occurred in April 2000 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 64.4 percent. The 10-year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 59.1 percent in November 2013. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in March 1976 when the employment-to-population ratio was 54.7 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio rose by 0.1 percentage point to 60.1 percent in March. That rate was 0.2 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 in April 2000. The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.4 percent in December 2006. The recent low occurred in October 2013 when the employment-to-population ratio dipped to 58.2 percent. The last time the employment-to-population ratio posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

